

Inventory Number \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTER OF HISTORIC KANSAS PLACES--COVER SHEET

Name of Property Dr. E. A. Lyons House

Location 212 S. Kansas Ave.  
(street and number)

Norton  
(city, town, or vicinity location)

Lots 5 and 7, Block 1, Spencer's Addition  
(legal description)

Norton  
(County)

Owner of Property Dorothy Kennedy Moffet

603 W. Woodsfield  
(street and number)

Norton, Kansas (NORTON) 67654  
(city, town, county)

*315 Homestead Dr. 51-00  
Lawrence, KS 66049-2001*

National Register Status:

date approved for nomination to the National Register by Kansas Historic  
Sites Board of Review N/A

date entered in National Register N/A

Description: See attached sheets.

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The house has survived with very few changes. It is located on the original lot and the entire original four lots have remained in family ownership.

The Dr. E.A. Lyons House is located one block from the Courthouse Square which is the center of the business district. The property includes six lots. The three lots on the west face State Street, where there is a rental business building and parking lot located. The property is still owned intact. The house is built on the three lots facing east on Kansas Avenue. There is also a garage on the north side. Originally, there was a stable for the horses and buggies on the west side. This was torn down and the garage has no significance.

The house is basically a square, two-story structural built of brick, it was one of the first brick houses built in Norton. The east front of the house has a porch the entire width of the house. Under the porch are two front doors, identical, one opens into what was the dental office, and the other into the hall of the residence. Also on the front there is a bay window reaching to the roof of the porch on the south end, and a double sash window on the north side of the doors. The windows all have stained glass small panes around the top sash. An interesting feature are the lintels above all doors and windows. Instead of horizontal architectural member it has an arch of bricks with side buttress.

The roof has been covered with composition shingles and the front of the porch replaced with new brick. There was also a railing around on top of the brick facing which has been lost. The top railing and decorative brackets are all original as is the fish scale shingling on the face of the gables and second story. There are brick capitals above the windows and doors.



The front door on the right leads directly into what was originally the dental office. The other front door opens into a small foyer and hall. There is a door on the left into the parlor, a fair sized room on the south with a bay window on the east. There are two windows on the south side. The room is divided by a wide opening making a small alcove in the west end of the room, which was used as a music room with a piano and an Edison Phonograph. The woodwork throughout the house is original except for the kitchen.

In the hall there is an open stairway to the second floor, and a passage way leading into the sitting-dining room. There is also a door out of the hall on the right side into the office. Originally there was just the dining room and the kitchen on the west side of the house. It was heated by wood and coal burning stoves. There was no electricity in the town at that time.

In about 1915 or 1916, Dr. Lyons added to the west side of the house putting in a bathroom, a kitchen and a screened-in porch on the northwest. He also added a basement with a steam heating plant. Earlier there had been a cellar under the house.


Upstairs there were three bedrooms. When the addition was made on the west it included another bedroom on the second floor. This room has a small balcony on the south. In the 1940s after the Lyons' deaths there was a partition change upstairs and a bathroom put in.

Significance See attached sheets.

Form prepared by Dorothy Kennedy Moffet (SPONSOR) Date May, 1988

This property was approved for listing in the Register of Historic Kansas Places  
by the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review on October 29, 1988

I hereby certify that this property is included in the Register of Historic  
Kansas Places.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State Historic Preservation Officer

October 29, 1988  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

The Dr. E.A. Lyons House (c. 1895) is being nominated to the Register of Historic Kansas Places for its historical association with Dr. E.A. Lyons.

E.A. Lyons was born in Baldwinville, New York in 1848 and came to Kansas in 1871 at the age of 22, with two other young men. They filed claims on homesteads in Marion County. His background and experience having been in cities and family business, he very soon sold his claim and went to several larger cities looking for work. He landed in Sioux City, Iowa and from there established his own hardware store in Sloan, a town near by. There he was married in 1873 and stayed until 1885. Having sold the store, he, his wife and daughter came west in a covered wagon across the prairies, crossing rivers on pontoons. Arriving in Norton, Kansas, he decided to stay here. He found a job in a hardware store. This store was destroyed by a big fire that consumed much of a whole block of the town in January, 1886.

That spring E.A. Lyons built a building for his own hardware store but soon sold out and bought a drug store in the fall of 1887. To operate that business he had to study medicine. He decided to enter the field of dentistry. Having made things for years in the hardware business he was adept at the making of false teeth. He went to the Kansas City College of Dentistry and received a D.D.S. Degree in 1893.

Shortly after this he sold the drug store and built the brick house to include his dental office. During the years in Norton he was very interested in and contributed to the cultural aspects of the town. In the early years he helped organize and played in the band. He was one of the original stock holders and directors in the company that built the Opera House. He was manager of the Opera House for many years, and was instrumental in bringing cultural performances as well as stock company theatrical plays into the



town. He was also very involved with the Masonic Lodge and became a 32nd Degree Mason.

Upon the deaths of Dr. and Mrs. Lyons in 1941 the house was inherited by their only child, a daughter. Bertha Lyons came to Norton with her parents in 1885, a child of ten years. She attended the schools in Norton and graduated from the City High School, the first four-year school in the area, in 1893, one of the first classes to graduate. She attended one year of college in Great Bend, Kansas and then came back to teach school.

In 1900 she married Charles Kennedy, who also came to Norton with his parents in Spring, 1884 where he lived all of his life, except for jaunts to the gold fields of Cripple Creek, Colorado and the opening of the Oklahoma Strip while he was still in his teens. In Norton he started the first Steam Laundry in Northwest Kansas and ran that business successfully for fifty years. He was interested in community affairs, served on the City Council, and was instrumental in helping get a "white way"-street lights- for the Main Street.

In 1943, a year after the death of Dr. Lyons, his granddaughter, Dorothy Kennedy Moffet, and her husband, Melvin Moffet, a pharmacist, purchased a drug store in Norton and moved into the Lyons house, where they lived until building a house in 1950. Melvin and Dorothy Moffet continued the tradition of being involved in civic activities. Melvin served on the City Council, was Mayor of Norton for two terms, President of the Rotary Club, contributed to all of the progressive aspects of the community, including the Episcopal Church, the city swimming pool, the country club, a new hospital, and an alcohol treatment center. The Moffets operated their drug store successfully until 1980, when they sold the business and retired.